

## *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. in the Isle of Wight

By H. C. HUGGINS, F.R.E.S.

I was greatly interested in Mr Fearnough's article on the butterflies of the Isle of Wight (57) and particularly in the account of *aurinia*.

Mr Fearnough quotes Frohawk's statement that the form at Cowes is almost similar to the Irish race.

In the winter of 1949 I wrote to my late friend Dr K. G. Blair, who was then living at Freshwater Bay to ask him whether he would like me to try to get him some Irish *aurinia* in 1950, as I proposed spending six weeks at Glengarriff, and the butterfly seemed to be returning there after a long absence. Blair replied that he did not want any as *praeclara* Kane was found in the island, and sent me four which I still have. These are all labelled "Isle of Wight Cranmore" three 1948 and one 1949. Although slightly duller than the brightest *praeclara*, they are certainly of that form and indistinguishable from specimens I have from Sir Charles Langham, taken in Co. Fermanagh.

*Aurinia* is a strange insect; when I first knew Glengarriff in 1914-1919 it was generally distributed in the district. The only surviving specimen I have, taken in the Coomerkane valley, is the brightest *praeclara* of my series.

When I returned to the locality in 1948 Philip Graves informed me that it was quite extinct there, but I saw a few in 1949 and in 1952 it had established several little colonies, but these were all *scotica* Robson. *Aurinia* then had also two or three colonies on the road to Mizen Head.

I think Frohawk is a bit vague in referring to the Irish race; I have taken *aurinia* in several Irish districts, and in most of these the local races differ and in some cases are like those from English colonies.

I am sorry to hear that the Island is becoming built up and fitted for motor traffic. I have not been there since the outbreak of the war in 1939, but about fifty years ago, the late L. T. Ford and myself collected a good deal for micros in the narrow overgrown lanes between Yarmouth and Freshwater. I suppose these have all been "improved."

Should *aurinia* still exist on the Island, it may turn up anywhere again. In my experience it has two phases which I call static and dynamic. I have known a small colony of half a dozen remain in a hollow perhaps thirty yards in diameter, and gradually become worse and worse in condition until its members died of old age. On the other hand I have seen it flying rapidly across the Caha plateau at Glengarriff twelve hundred feet above sea level, and at least two miles from the nearest colony, and in 1949 I saw one on the road up Mount Mangerton, Killarney, 800 feet up. I wanted to see what it was like, and pursued it for about 200 yards without gaining an inch, when it

rose and flew over a belt of firs. I should perhaps mention that in those days I could run down *hyale* on the wing and had not yet become in the graphic words of Surtees: "a worn out old devil that could do nothing but eat."

## Isle of Canna Notes for 1970 and 1971

By J. L. CAMPBELL

*Additions to "Macrolepidoptera Cannae", see Record September 1970 et seq.*

268. *P. viridaria* Clerck (Small Purple Barred). One in m.v. trap on 9/6/70. (157a in list).
269. *C. ligustri* Schiff. (The Coronet). A worn specimen in m.v. trap on 20/7/71.
270. *S. costaestrigalis* Steph. (Pinion-streaked Snout). A worn specimen in the trap on 2/8/71. Identified by Mr E. C. Pelham-Clinton.
271. *L. viretata* Hübn. (Yellow Barred Brindle). One in trap on 25/5/71.
272. *P. comitata* L. (Dark Spinach). One in trap on 13/7/71. (Previously taken on Canna by Dr Michael Harper in 1957 and by J. L. C. on Barra).
273. *C. jubata* Thunb. (Dotted Carpet). One in trap on 31/7/71
274. *B. piniaria* L. (Bordered White). One in trap on 3/6/71.

### *Other records of interest*

1. *P. brassicae* L. A freshly emerged male was found below the wood east of my house on 23/4/71. I do not remember seeing *brassicae* here in April before.
5. *V. io*. Still absent from Canna, but I was glad to see a specimen on the east side of Loch Awe in Argyllshire near the south end of the loch on 14/10/70.
9. *A. selene* L. was seen again in the Haligary gulley in June 1970 and 1971. In 1971 it also appeared in clearings in the wood planted between the gulley and my house in 1956-57 for the first time.
11. *P. aegeria* L. Not seen in 1970, but appeared again in 1971 on 30/7/71 in the wood behind my garden (in the same patch of sunlight where specimens were seen in 1968 and 1969) and in my garden on 2/8/71. An obviously different specimen was seen in my garden on 12/8/71. The woods were all searched around this time, but no other specimens were seen.
25. *N. dromedarius* L. Specimens were taken in the trap on 25/5/71 and 28/7/71, the first since 1956.
43. *E. irrorella* L. Many larvae noticed sunning themselves on the low south-facing cliffs at Sgorr nam Ban Naomh on 14/4/71, several taken home, two emerged June 1st.
58. *A. strigula* Thunb. (*porphyrea* Hübn.) 262 specimens out of a total of 402 moths on 28/7/71; 169 specimens out